

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



December 7, 2005

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-75-05

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL FOOD STAMP COORDINATORS

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- ☐ State Law Change
- ☐ Federal Law or Regulation Change
- ☐ Court Order
- ☐ Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- ☒ Initiated by CDSS

SUBJECT: TRANSITIONAL FOOD STAMP BENEFITS QUESTIONS AND
ANSWERS (Q&A)

REFERENCE: ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NUMBERS I-21-04, I-72-04
AND I-27-05.

This All-County Information Notice provides counties the third volume of Q&As regarding Transitional Food Stamp Benefits (TFS). These Q&As were reviewed by the County Food Stamp Review and Action Team (FRAT) before being finalized.

If you have any questions regarding the enclosed Q&As, please contact Ms. Detta Hunt, Food Stamp Policy Development Unit, at (916) 653-6161 or detta.hunt@dss.ca.gov. Please continue to submit routine TFS policy questions through FRAT and if it is determined that questions have statewide implications, they will be forwarded to Ms. Hunt for clarification.

Sincerely,

RICHTON YEE, Chief
Food Stamp Branch

Attachment

**TRANSITIONAL FOOD STAMPS (TFS) –
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS (VOL. III):**

1. In a case where CalWORKs (CW) was discontinued and TFS is initiated, how will the caseload movement be tracked if the CW's discontinuance is rescinded within 30 days of the discontinuance date with good cause and the case is determined to be eligible for regular Food Stamps (FS)? Would there be an overissuance?

Because the CW discontinuance was rescinded and the household did not have a break in aid; the food stamp case would be transferred back to PA the following month. Because TFS was correctly issued by the county based on the available information, there would not be an overissuance. (MPP 63-509(h)(1)(A))

2. The TFS benefit is to be adjusted if a person who was a part of that TFS case has been approved for benefits with another FS household. Can the individual be removed from the TFS allocation prior to being allowed to apply with another FS household?

No. There is no guarantee that the individual will receive food stamp benefits in the other household and therefore they are not to be removed from the TFS household until they are approved for benefits in the new household. (MPP 63—504.132(c))

3. If a CW/FS case subject to QR/PB rules, contains voluntary changes which have been deferred to the next quarter, should these changes be included as part of the TFS evaluation when CW is discontinued?

No. The TFS benefit amount is calculated based on what the household was receiving at the time of the CW discontinuance. (MPP—63.132(a))

4. What calculation is to be used to adjust the TFS benefit amount when an individual, who was a part of the TFS household, is approved for benefits with another FS household? Would the income of an individual, who is leaving the household, remain with the TFS household even though it is also being counted in a new Food Stamp household's budget?

Unlike regular FS the TFS benefit calculation is frozen for the five-month period, unless an individual leaves the household and is approved for benefits in another household. If this occurs the county must change the household's allotment by reducing the number of persons in the household. Because, the TFS benefit amount is based on the household's circumstances at the time of the CW's discontinuance and therefore the only change that would affect the household is loss of the member approved in the other household. Therefore the income is not removed. (MPP 63--504.132)

5. If a member of a TFS household has income and is convicted of an intentional program violation during the TFS period, is the income removed?

No. If an individual is convicted of an IPV they are ineligible to receive TFS benefits and their income and property continue to be counted to the household. (MPP 63-503.441(a))

6. A household is receiving TFS benefits and during the TFS period a new member has moved into the home and the household reapplies for regular FS. Per regulations, the beginning date of aid, for the new application for regular FS is the first of the following month. Is the household eligible for regular FS in following month even if a 10-day notice cannot be given prior to the end of the month?

Yes. TFS would remain unchanged until the new application is approved. By applying for regular FS, and assuming that the benefits are increased only adequate notice to the household regarding TFS is required. (MPP 63-504.132(e) and 63-504.261 and .262)

7. In a case where TFS is ongoing and an application is received for CWs benefits only, how will the caseload movement be tracked if the CWs benefits are denied?

TFS benefits will continue to be reported under “Ongoing Cases” on the DFA 296 (There is no change in the TFS case since CW was denied).

8. A mandatory change is reported from a third party but is not acted upon timely by the worker. Is the TFS household liable for overissuance for the month for which the change was not acted upon?

No. Households are not required to report changes during the TFS period. Counties are not required to act on third party information. (MPP 63-504.132(b) and ACL 03-66, Attachment A)

9. If the initial TFS benefit amount is determined incorrectly due to worker error can the benefit amount be adjusted during the TFS period?

Yes. If the county improperly calculated the TFS benefit amount, the benefits would be adjusted in accordance with MPP 63--801-223(b).

10. Scenario: In an ongoing CW/FS case with a Mom and one child. Mom is CW ineligible and FS eligible and the child is CW eligible but FS ineligible and CW is discontinued effective 04/30.

Case Composition	CW eligible	FS eligible
Mom	No	Yes
Child	Yes	No

Is this a TFS case?

Yes, mom would receive TFS benefits. (MPP 63--504.132(a))

11. Does the county approve TFS if the parent is incarcerated and the child is now living with relatives and receiving CW with those relatives? Is the parent eligible for TFS?

No. The child is not eligible for TFS because they are receiving CW benefits in another household (MPP 504.13). The incarcerated parent, pursuant to MPP 63-402.4 is not eligible for FS.

12. Are Counties required to provide an informational notice prior to the end of the TFS period?

Yes. Counties are required to notify the household of the expiration of the TFS period. (MPP 63-504.132(e))

13. Is a household that is receiving family reunification services (under AB 429) eligible for TFS?

No. Family reunification services are funded with TANF funds (the same as CalWORKs), therefore the household would not be eligible for TFS. Once the CalWORKs family reunification services are discontinued, the household would be eligible for TFS. (MPP 63-504.131)